

Intimate Partner Violence In Idaho:

Trends From 1998 - 2002

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide the number of reported intimate partner violence incidences in Idaho between 1998 and 2000. Contained in this report is a description of intimate partner violence victims, the offense, the relationship between intimates, and Idaho's intimate partner violence rates broken down by region and county.

Data Collection and Definitions

The data used for this report was extracted from Idaho's repository for the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which collects data on each criminal incident reported to police. For purposes of this report intimate partner violence is defined as an act of violence against an intimate partner. Violence is defined by physical injury, force, or threat of force, and includes the crimes of homicide, rape, sexual assault, robbery, intimidation, kidnapping/abduction, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Intimate partners are defined as current or former spouses, boyfriends and girlfriends, and common law spouses. Therefore, the data described in this report is limited to incidences in which the victim's boyfriend/girlfriend, current or former spouse, or common law spouse committed the previously mentioned crimes against them.

Data Considerations and Limitations

There are two data considerations when using data from NIBRS to describe the amount of crime in Idaho. First, NIBRS only contains information about crimes reported to the police, not all crime in Idaho. Second, all crimes reported to the police in Lemhi County and Tribal law enforcement agencies do not report to NIBRS. However, approximately 98% of Idaho's population is covered by 105 law enforcement agencies, whom report to NIBRS.

When analyzing intimate partner violence with data from NIBRS, two data limitations exist. First, the potential for double counting incidences exists due to data collection methods. This risk of double counting results from documenting incidences occurring at the same address or to the same victim-offender independently. In addition, double counting incidences may result from multiple police responses to a single location being counted as different incidences, when this could actually reflect multiple victimizations of same victims. Second, NIBRS does not include an identifier for

intimate partner violence, nor documents the reasons, conflicts, or motives behind criminal acts. Therefore, NIBRS information only allows for the identification of the relationship between the victim and offender and the purported crime. For these reasons, the description of intimate partner violence provided below should be interpreted with the knowledge of these data considerations and limitations.

Intimate Partner Violence Victims

As shown in Chart 1, females comprise 78 to 79 percent of victims of reported intimate partner violence between 1998 and 2002. During the same time period, males account for only 21 to 22 percent of victims of reported intimate partner violence. Chart 2 shows that reported victims of intimate partner violence average an age of 31.1 years between 1998 and 2002, with males being older with an average of 33.2 years old and females on average being 30.5 years old.

Intimate Partner Violence Offenses

As stated previously, intimate partner violence for the purpose of this report includes the crimes of aggravated assault, simple assault, forcible sex offenses (forcible rape and sodomy, sexual assault), kidnapping/abduction, homicide, intimidation and robbery. It is important to note that although NIBRS may list several offenses for each victim, only one offense for each victim is listed in Table 1.

Table 1 displays the type and number of violent acts among intimate partners between 1998 and 2002. Clearly, simple assault is the most common violent crime between intimates, accounting for 83% of these crimes between 1999 and 2002. The second most common violent crime is aggravated assault, which only accounts for eight percent of violent crime between intimates from 1998 to 2002.

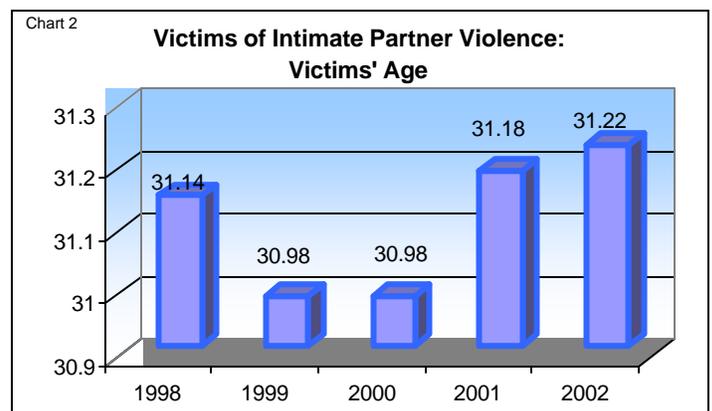
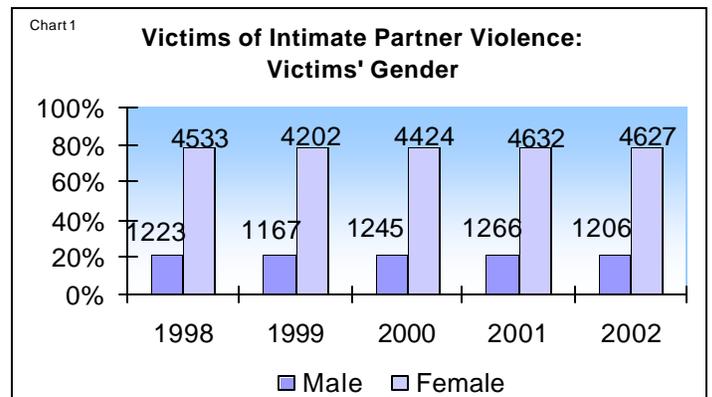


Table 1

Violence by Intimate Partners					
Offense	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Aggravated assault	460	495	455	478	475
Simple assault	4,803	4,402	4,765	4,954	4,869
Forcible Sex Offenses	88	107	123	123	132
Kidnapping/Abduction	27	32	46	46	20
Murder/Non-negligent Manslaughter	3	3	4	8	7
Negligent Manslaughter	0	1	0	1	0
Intimidation	367	324	274	276	325
Robbery	7	5	2	9	5

Relationship Between Victims and Offenders

Most victims of intimate partner violence between 1998 and 2002 were victimized by their spouses (40%). However, as shown in Table 2, between 1998 and 2002 the number of reported violent crimes between boyfriends and girlfriends increased while those between spouses decreased.

Victimizations between gays/lesbians and common-law spouses remained stable. Changes to Idaho's statutory definition of domestic violence is a likely explanation for this increase in reported violent crimes between boyfriends and girlfriends. The first change occurred with the enactment of "Cassie's Law" in April of 2000. The passage of this law expanded the definition of domestic violence to apply to minor children who had or is having a dating relationship. Then in 2002, Idaho's statutory definition of domestic violence was expanded to apply to adults who had or is having a dating relationship.

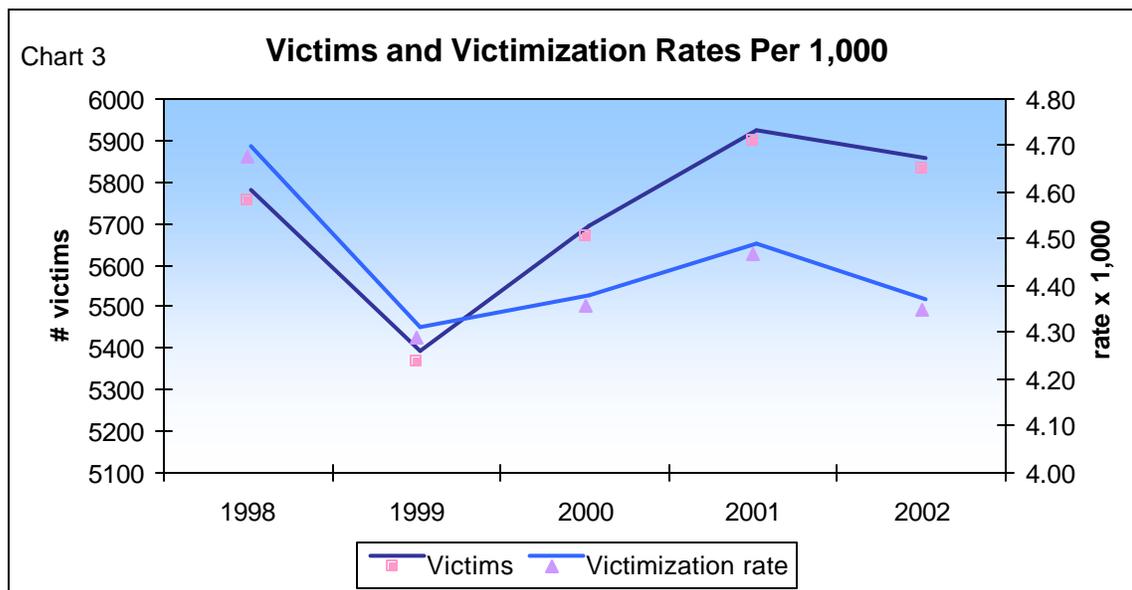
Table 2 further indicates that between 14 and 16 percent of victims from 1998 to 2002 were also offenders in the incident.

Table 2

	Relationship of the Victim to the Offender									
	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	1,985	34%	1,764	33%	1,824	32%	2,064	35%	2,226	38%
Common-Law Spouse	652	11%	633	12%	761	13%	738	13%	677	12%
Spouse	2,685	47%	2,572	48%	2,689	47%	2,635	45%	2,549	44%
Ex-Spouse	415	7%	380	7%	375	7%	435	7%	352	6%
Homosexual Relationship	19	0.3%	20	0.4%	20	0.4%	26	0.4%	29	0.5%
Victim was Also Offender	906	16%	846	16%	902	16%	847	14%	842	14%

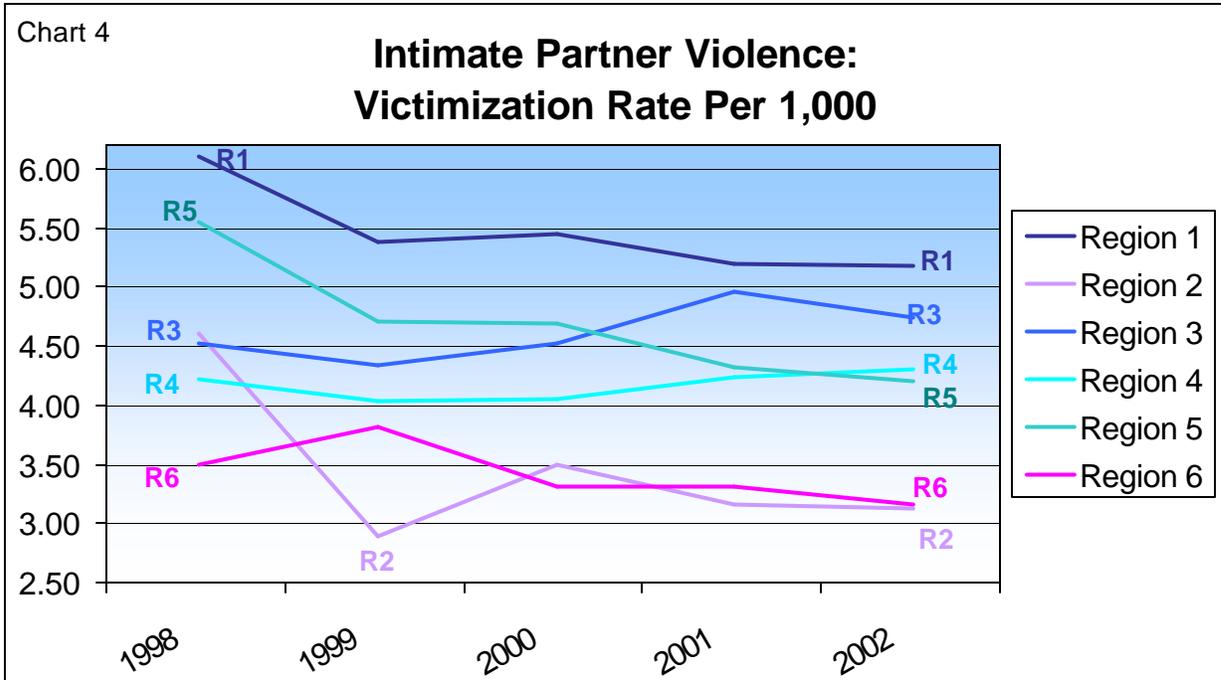
Intimate Partner Violence Incidences and Victims From 1998-2002

Chart 3 displays Idaho's five-year trend of intimate partner violence from 1998 to 2002. The number of reported intimate partner violence victims in Idaho increased by one percent from 1998 to 2002. However, taking the increased population into account, the rate of victimization has actually decreased by seven percent since 1998. Between 1998 and 1999, victimization rates of intimate partner violence decreased by eight percent. Then from 1999 to 2001, victimization rates steadily increased by two percent each year until 2001, when they dropped again by three percent. Again, the increase in intimate partner violence victims between 2000 and 2001 could be attributable to changes in the statutory definition of domestic violence.



Intimate Partner Violence from 1998 to 2002, By Region and County

The following describes the number of intimate partner violence victims and victimization rates for each region and county. Use caution when interpreting changes in the number of reported victims and victimization rates. A rate increase/decrease doesn't necessarily mean crime incidences are going up or down. These changes may be due to increased reporting. In addition, victimization rates in sparsely populated areas are greatly affected by deviations in crime incidences. Furthermore, changes in police department and/or sheriff's office leadership and policies, and local awareness of domestic violence may attribute to increases or decreases in reported victimization rates.



Region 1

As shown in Chart 4, Region 1 has the highest intimate partner violence victimization rate compared to other regions. The rate of intimate partner violence victimizations substantially decreased in Region 1 between 1998 and 2002, by 15%. Benewah County had the greatest decrease in the rate of victimizations. The rate of intimate partner violence in Benewah decreased by 57% between 1998 and 2002, with the biggest decrease occurring between 2001 and 2002.

Region 2

As shown in Table 3, since 1998, Region 2 had the biggest decrease since 1998 with a 32% decrease. This decrease is largely attributable to decreases in Latah County's reported intimate partner violence (a 57% decrease) and Nez Perce County's decrease of 36%.

Region 3

Region 3 had the biggest increase in reported intimate partner violence since 1998, with an increase of five percent. Two counties, Boise County and Owyhee County, may account for this increase in Region 3. Boise County had the highest increase (166%) in victimization rates of reported intimate partner violence than any county. Owyhee County had a 52% increase. However, both of these

counties are less populated counties. Therefore, small fluxuations will effect their victimization rates. In fact, Owyhee County only increased from 23 victims in 1998 to 37 in 2002.

Region 4

Region 4 stayed relatively stable over the past 5 years, with a change of only two percent for victimization rates. However, Minidoka County had consistent increases and decreases in their victimization rates over the 5 years, with an overall increase of 65%.

Region 5

Region 5 had a 24% decrease in the rate of intimate partner violence victims since 1998. The largest county in Region 5, Bannock County, is largely responsible for this decrease. In 1998, Bannock County had the highest intimate partner violence victimization rate seen in the last 5 years, with a rate of 8.35 victims per 1,000 people in the region. Since 1999, the rate has steadily dropped every year with a 32% overall decrease in the victimization rate.

Region 6

Although Idaho experienced a decrease in reported intimate partner violence from 1998 to 1999, Region 6 had a victimization rate increase during this time frame (See Chart 4). This increase was largely attributable to increases in the Jefferson and Fremont Counties. From 1998 to 1999, Jefferson County's intimate partner violence victimization rate increased by 32% and Fremont County's increased by 16%.

County	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		% Change Rate 1998-2002
	N	Rate									
Benewah	57	6.27	42	4.63	41	4.46	26	2.88	24	2.67	-57%
Bonner	133	3.76	102	2.83	137	3.70	175	4.69	167	4.37	16%
Boundary	24	2.44	28	2.81	24	2.42	36	3.62	31	3.07	26%
Kootenai	717	7.08	677	6.46	678	6.19	638	5.71	656	5.76	-19%
Shoshone	97	7.00	82	6.01	93	6.77	64	4.75	71	5.42	-22%
Region 1	1029	6.07	931	5.36	975	5.43	940	5.18	950	5.15	-15%
Clearwater	28	3.00	20	2.14	20	2.25	19	2.21	23	2.72	-9%
Idaho	56	3.73	50	3.33	54	3.49	28	1.82	63	4.12	10%
Latah	91	2.79	40	1.23	68	1.95	53	1.51	42	1.19	-57%
Lewis	8	2.00	13	3.30	14	3.74	5	1.38	10	2.69	34%
Nez Perce	265	7.19	158	4.28	193	5.16	208	5.62	172	4.64	-36%
Regiz 2	448	4.58	281	2.87	349	3.48	314	3.15	310	3.11	-32%
Ada	1231	4.47	1177	4.15	1304	4.30	1456	4.65	1435	4.49	1%
Adams	5	1.32	5	1.32	5	1.44	3	0.88	4	1.16	-12%
Boise	6	1.17	13	2.45	18	2.67	26	3.75	22	3.11	166%
Canyon	641	5.32	633	5.09	703	5.28	840	6.04	846	5.84	10%
Elmore	104	4.10	114	4.45	136	4.66	178	6.07	137	4.65	13%
Gem	33	2.22	57	3.76	56	3.68	36	2.33	46	2.97	34%
Owyhee	23	2.24	25	2.40	23	2.15	34	3.12	37	3.41	52%
Payette	102	4.99	113	5.42	108	5.23	95	4.57	105	5.00	0%
Washington	27	2.64	18	1.75	25	2.51	40	4.02	24	2.42	-8%
Valley	47	5.87	29	3.69	45	5.89	31	4.05	35	4.65	-21%
Region 3	2220	4.49	2186	4.31	2426	4.50	2746	4.94	2691	4.73	5%
Blaine	81	4.71	52	3.00	68	3.55	74	3.74	75	3.68	-22%
Camas	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	3.06	2	1.98	0	0.00	0%
Cassia	136	6.38	142	6.58	149	6.96	137	6.34	148	6.81	7%
Gooding	30	2.20	34	2.47	36	2.54	38	2.67	30	2.10	-5%
Jerome	71	3.95	57	3.15	47	2.55	55	2.98	91	4.87	23%
Lincoln	1	0.26	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.24	2	0.48	80%
Minidoka	44	2.18	78	3.85	84	4.18	57	2.91	70	3.60	65%
Twin Falls	297	4.77	274	4.35	268	4.16	324	5.01	293	4.48	-6%
Region 4	660	4.20	637	4.01	655	4.03	688	4.21	709	4.29	2%
Bannock	620	8.35	506	6.76	500	6.62	455	6.00	429	5.66	-32%
Bear Lake	0	0.00	2	0.30	2	0.31	4	0.62	1	0.16	0%
Bingham	136	3.25	157	3.73	166	3.97	151	3.57	166	3.91	20%
Caribou	6	0.81	10	1.37	12	1.64	14	1.89	15	2.05	153%
Franklin	27	2.43	13	1.15	7	0.62	4	0.35	7	0.60	-75%
Oneida	15	3.72	13	3.20	15	3.63	4	0.96	6	1.45	-61%
Power	43	5.11	24	2.86	18	2.40	35	4.67	25	3.39	-34%
Region 5	848	5.52	726	4.69	721	4.68	667	4.30	649	4.18	-24%
Bonneville	436	5.40	483	5.92	430	5.19	430	5.13	420	4.93	-9%
Butte	0	0.00	2	0.66	2	0.69	0	0.00	2	0.69	0%
Clark	4	4.50	1	1.10	2	1.94	4	4.03	3	3.01	-33%
Custer	8	1.96	4	0.98	4	0.92	11	2.58	15	3.58	83%
Fremont	13	1.09	15	1.26	11	0.93	16	1.35	17	1.43	32%
Jefferson	45	2.30	60	3.01	46	2.39	49	2.53	32	1.62	-30%
Madison	17	0.68	16	0.65	16	0.58	13	0.47	18	0.65	-4%
Teton	28	5.10	27	4.73	30	4.91	19	2.93	16	2.33	-54%
Region 6	551	3.47	608	3.80	543	3.30	543	3.30	524	3.14	-10%
Statewide	5756	4.68	5369	4.29	5669	4.36	5898	4.47	5833	4.35	-7%

* Rates were calculated using county population figures, furnished by the U.S. Census.

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